

Middle Snake River Watershed - WRIA 35

The Tucannon, and Asotin drainages are the primary streams within the WRIA in which low flows are identified as being limiting to salmonid production.

Asotin Creek - A total of five cfs of surface water diversions are allocated for Asotin Creek. WDFW has recommended that a minimum of 15 cfs be maintained within the creek to meet instream flow needs for fish at SR128 between July 1 and March 31, and 70cfs April 1 through June 30th. There are two surface diversions in the lower two miles of Charley Creek contributing to loss of habitat and create a barrier to migration during low flow periods.

Alpowa Creek is the only perennial stream within this sub-basin. Low flows average about five cfs during the low flow period (July to October) while diversions total approximately 7 cfs. Steelhead production could benefit significantly by providing additional flow. However, there is significant impact on the riparian and floodplain habitat associated with ranching which must also be addressed for salmonid recovery to occur.

Tucannon River - A total of 67 water rights for 60cfs have been issued in the lower Tucannon River, while additional claims for 133cfs have not been adjudicated. Flows in the lower Tucannon River, fall below the 65 cfs target more than 50 percent of the time between July and October which is limiting salmonid productivity. It is assumed that only verified rights should be considered for acquisition to meet target flows in the Tucannon River to ensure that instream flows can be preserved. This may be challenging within this basin as water rights are based on consumptive use and have not been adjudicated.

Tenmile and Couse Creeks have very little water in the summer and fall. It is unknown how much water is legally or illegally withdrawn, from these streams. There should be no further appropriation of water from these streams due to existing critically low flows. Both of these streams have sections that go dry during the summer and salmonids concentrate in isolated pools or wet areas to try to survive. Small amounts of water (e.g. 0.5 cfs) are very important to these streams. Steelheads are present but flows are very limiting to production. There is a lack of specific data on historic flows or any water use in this sub-basin.

Mill Creek - There may be diversions in or above the town of Anatone on Mill Creek, and upper Mill Creek goes dry in summer and fall. The degree to which low flow is related to diversions and how much in "natural" is unknown. We have little or no information on diversions from this stream.

Meadow Creek - Water use in this stream is largely unknown. This basin has little salmonid value as indicated by Glen Mendel, (WDFW Fish program, personal comm.). Summer steelhead are present, but very limited.

Wawawai Creek – Water diversions are suspected, but there is no current documentation. Any additional water would be very important for this stream. The culvert at the bottom is being examined for repair to improve passage. Juvenile summer steelhead has been observed in this stream and adults have been observed attempting to enter the culvert, which appears to be a

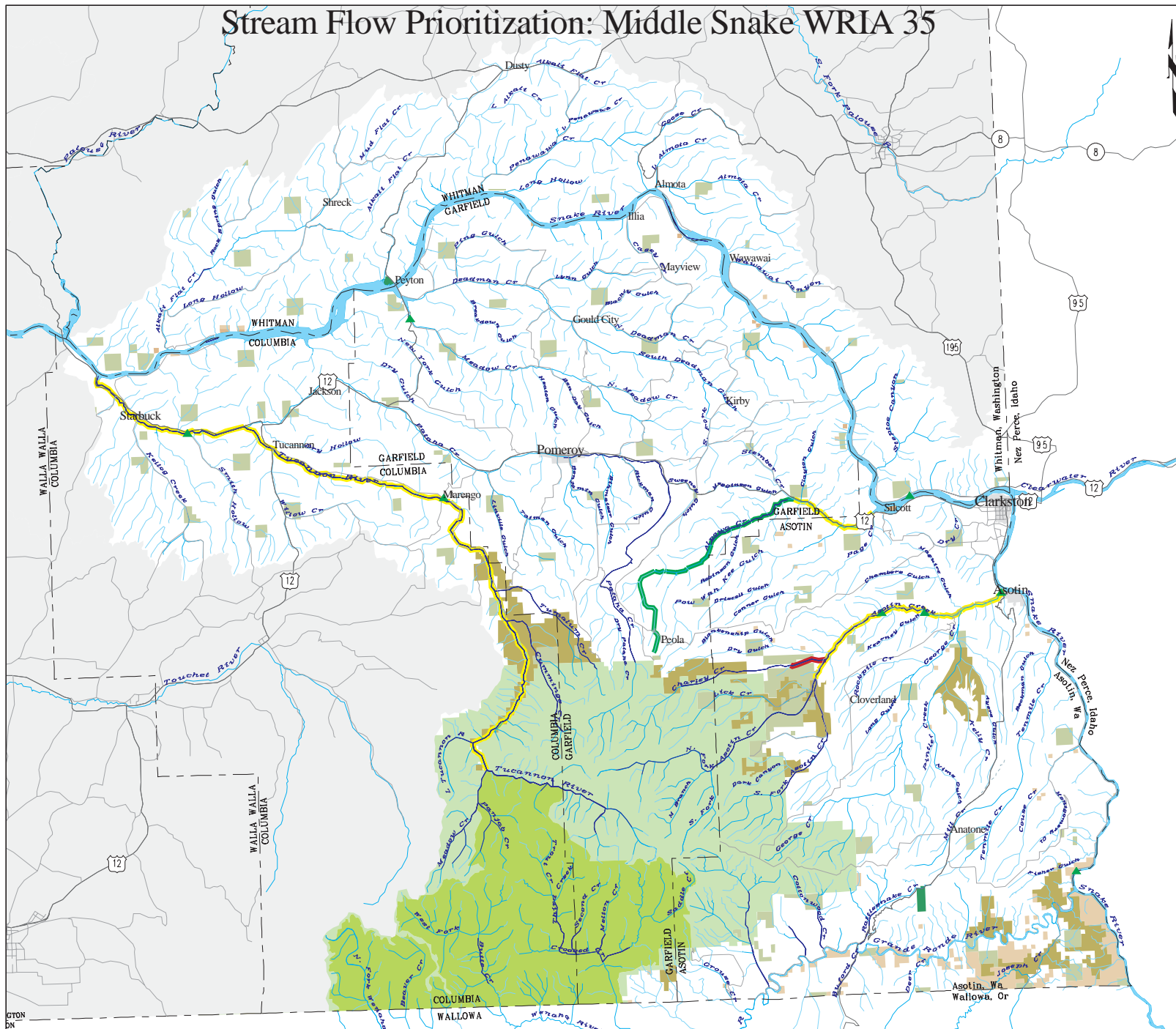
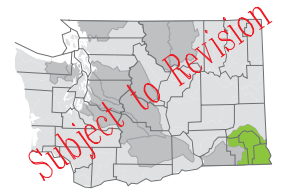
barrier in all but the highest flows.

Alkali Flat Creek – diversions are unknown in this sub-basin. It is suspected that there are diversions near the town of Hay. Any increase in water would be valuable for fish. Flows are very limiting to summer steelhead production.

Penewawa Creek – This is a small stream with steelhead use that has very little water in the summer and fall. Any water we can protect or acquire would be valuable for fish production. Diversions are unknown.

Limited summer and fall flows significantly limit steelhead productivity in the above listed independent tributaries of the Snake River. Water is so limited that during some years adult steelhead either can't get into these streams at all or they are delayed, or there are stretches that they can't access because of little or no water. Low flows or lack of water affects adults in spring and juveniles in summer and fall in these sub-basins.

Stream Flow Prioritization: Middle Snake WRIA 35



- US Forest Service
- US Wildlife Refuge
- US Parks/Recreation
- USFS Wilderness Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Dept. Defense/Energy
- Wa. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Wa. Dept. of Natural Resources
- State School/Hospital/Prison
- Wa. Parks & Recreation
- City/County Watershed/Park
- Tribal Lands
- Incorporated City

- Low priority stream
- Medium priority stream
- High priority stream
- Salmon/Bull Trout Spawning/Rearing area
- Other streams
- Canal/ditch/pipe
- USGS Stream Flow Gage
- Ecology Stream Flow Gage
- Water Right Purchase

- County
- Highway
- Local Paved Roads

WDNR/Ecology - Major Public Lands 2002 100k
 WDFW/Ecology - Hydrography, 2000 100k
 Ecology - WRIA, 2002 24K
 WDOT - Transportation, 2001 24K
 WDFW - Stream Flow Prioritization 2002
 WDFW - Spawning/Rearing Areas 2002 100k
 USGS/Ecology - Stream Gages 1:100k



Water Resources Program



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